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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 001503

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG (LAWRENCE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/20/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TS](#)

SUBJECT: BEN ALI CONDEMNS LONDON BOMBINGS

Classified By: Ambassador William J. Hudson for reasons 1.4 (b); (d)

[11](#). (U) All major press July 8 carried President Ben Ali's message to Britain's Queen Elizabeth and PM Blair, in which he "condemned the odious crime" which had resulted in horrible damage and loss of life, and "expressed Tunisia's sympathy for the United Kingdom, the families of the victims and the British people." There was no editorial comment June [18](#).

[12](#). (C) Comment: We are engaging both Tunisian contacts and Arab diplomats here to urge more public statements condemning violence of all kinds in the name of Islam or in supposed defense of Arab causes. The Egyptian DCM, after accepting our condolences on the killing of Egypt's senior diplomat in Iraq, said "the reaction from Cairo will come slowly, but it will come." Tunis will report further reaction after a review of the weekend press.
HUDSON